



Siuslaw (West Lane County) Local Work Group Meeting Notes

3/5/2025 10 am - noon at Mapleton High School

Introductions

- There were 12 participants in attendance in person and 7 online via Zoom, including local landowners and representatives from the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians, Intertribal Agriculture Council, McKenzie River Trust, ODF, Oregon DEQ, Oregon Tilth, OSU Extension Service, Siuslaw SWCD staff and board, Siuslaw Watershed Council, and NRCS.
- Top Natural Resource Concerns Attendees are Currently Dealing with:
 - Floodplain reconnection
 - Erosion – streambank/riparian
 - Water quality/pollution reduction
 - Ag production/local foods
 - Conservation easements
 - Forestry
 - Changes to current/future logging on adjacent federal lands (USFS/BLM) & potential impacts to private land
 - Fuels reduction
 - Wildfire resilience
 - Pre-commercial thinning

NRCS Programs & Conservation Implementation Strategies – Annie Marion, District Conservationist

- See PowerPoint presentation for info on programs for small farms and updates on last year's activities

Siuslaw Soil & Water Conservation District Updates – Seth Mead, Watershed Conservationist

Contact info: siuswcd@gmail.com, <https://siuswcd.com/>

- Updates on 2024 floodplain reconnection projects - Bear Creek phase III (Fiddle Creek basin) and Dorff-Nichols-Steinberg (upper Deadwood Creek)
- New planned floodplain reconnection project on N Fork Siuslaw just downstream of past project on N Fork Siuslaw & McLeod Creek

Future Conservation Needs/Concerns

- Updated [Long-Range Plan for the Central Coast \(2024\)](#)
- Additional Concerns from Attendees:
 - Condition of railroad bridges (lead pollution affecting salmonids)
 - Wildfire Risk
 - Fire-fighting access in remote areas
 - Water resources for fighting fire
 - Drought-resistant plant selection
 - Increasing diversity and seed source for resilience to future conditions
 - Invasive species control

- Knotweed – challenging since it's only effective at watershed level and not all landowners are willing to allow spraying
- Water quantity issues and monitoring
 - Irrigation improvements (not much current irrigation usage but there are more water rights than there is available water so it could become an issue if more landowners start exercising those rights)
- Locally adapted crops (ability to handle both flooding and droughts)
- Soil Health

Thanks again to everyone who participated in the Local Work Group process this year, and thanks to Tom Snyder and Matt Bahm for helping to facilitate the meeting.

Contact Info:

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<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-basics/conservation-by-state/oregon/lincoln-lane-west-county>